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THE

COMPASS.

A

POETICAL PERFORMANCE

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BY

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or Quarterly visitation



THE
COMPASS.

WHILE frenzied chiefs their frustrate slaughter
And bleeding valor curst the vain crusade; [stay'd,
While glooms oblivious whelm'd the abject mind,
And moral Chaos wanton'd o'er mankind;
Nature, thro' love to man in happy hour,
Reveal'd the secrets of the *magnet's* power.
Her favourite now a magic force discerns,
Which the poiz'd points to heavens congenial turns,
With nice direction indicates each pole,
And quivers equal to the fond control.
Oh think the rapture! think the soul intranc'd,
On GOIA's mind when this discovery glanc'd.

Now milder labours calm the frantic age,
 No more the prey of self-destructive rage.
 Reason now ushers in with glimmering ray
 The approaching splendors of regenerate day ;
 Young phenix Science feels an unknown spring,
 Inform her frame and nerve her heavenward wing.

Exulting now no more with servile mark
 To every nook conforms the creeping bark,
 But dares, regardless of a threatening sky,
 Where shores receding mock the toiling eye.

Commerce henceforth those deathful regions flies,
 Where whelm'd in arid sand her votary dies ;
 Or where the dark, insidious Arab clan
 Rush murderous on her faltering caravan.
 Crown'd by the *Compass*, empress of the main,
 She joins all nations with a golden chain.

Tho' base mankind, in every age the same,
 To worth reluctant yield the meed of fame,
 Yet GOIA's brow the verdant wreath shall grace,
 Which Time's malicious scythe can ne'er displace.

The bigot Helm, to aged practice us'd,
 Cautious this *new* conductor long refus'd ;
 Till LUSITANIA, whose too bounded soil
 Precluded half her sons from rural toil,
 With venturous spirit fought on NEPTUNE's fields
 What generous CERES but too sparely yields.
 Her dauntless prow the tempest ne'er repuls'd,
 Nor raging furs, nor boundless waves convuls'd.
 DIAZ, her boast, had gain'd the *Cape of Hope*,
 Whence Indian climes in flattering prospect ope,
 When great COLUMBUS, nurtur'd by the wave
 To hardship born, in every danger brave

Matur'd the project, which to endless days
Commands enlarg'd mankind's unbounded praise.

But ah, how hard that unatton'd for curse,—
The man, *in genius rich, is poor in purse!*
COLUMBUS suppliant for a throne's support
Long bore the fly duplicity of court;
E'en in a blockhead-monarch's cold respect
Felt the keen pangs of genius in neglect.

At length, as vernal suns thro' ether's gloom
With genial radiance bid glad nature bloom,
The illustrious *consort* of IBERIA's throne
The lovely patron of the hero shone.

Oh peerless woman, to thy smile we owe
Each varied joy, COLUMBIA can bestow,—
E'en the kind FAIR; whose all-subduing art
With blissful sway *attracts* the trembling heart.

With course direct his rapid flight he steer'd,
 Where changeless gales the canvass never veer'd.
 His shrinking followers, rashly led to roam,
 Mourn'd the sad hour, they left their dear-lov'd home.
 While hope-forfaken, petrified with fear,
 Their rebel murmurs strike the leader's ear,
 Nature, as federate in the general cause,
 Resigns to faction her inverted laws,
 The MENTOR-*magnet* loses power to guide,
 Its soul disorder'd mid the wildering tide.

In every toil the chief serenely great
 Wore the feign'd smile, and mock'd impending fate ;
 Till from the convex flood his laboring fight
 Beheld a WORLD emerging into light.

Hail mighty chief ! this rapturous hour repairs
 A glorious life of hardships and of cares ;

Envy recoils from thy o'erpowering fame,
And Time stands guardian of thy deathless name.

This vast atchievement bold ambition fir'd ;
To equal toils each rival realm aspir'd.
While infant Commerce play'd on BRITAIN's shores,
Her CABOT's nearer sail these climes explores ;
DRAKE the glad sail of enterprise unfurl'd
And wav'd the streamer round the astonish'd world.

While vassall'd EUROPE blefs these western lands,
While Virtue's soul with gratitude expands ;
Unconquer'd avarice still controls the age,
And wild ambition fires with deadlier rage.
Oft as humanity, thro' tears, shall view
The blood-whelm'd scenes of MEXIC and PERU,
Wrath instantaneous reddening in her face
Shall damn the Spaniard from the human race.

Far different aims inspire the pious hosts,
 Who, heaven-protected seek these dreary coasts.
 Our great forefathers nobly spurn the land,
 Where hierarch flames o'er souls usurp command;
 Where Persecution, with her *vengeful rod*,
 In *bigot frenzy*, *vindicates her God*.
 Vain the exertions of tyrannic force,
 Vain every peril to oppose their course;
 Too high the object, which inspires their breast,
 Too strong their moving fire—to be repress.

Here Empire's germ with rapid vigor grew,
 Sun'd by GOD's smile, and fed with heavenly dew,
 Till o'er this halcyon land the vine had spread,
 And nurturing skies receiv'd its nodding head.

Here, blest COLUMBIA, nature's gifts combine,
 To make the important aid of Commerce thine.

Here Agriculture, drest in virgin pride,
 Invites the embraces of the constant Tide.
 Hail ! potent Commerce, who canst well defy
 Ungrateful tillage, and a frowning sky :
 Enrich'd by thee, PHOENICIA'S rocks may smile
 In the luxuriance of each foreign soil ;
 Gain'd from the yielding Ocean's just domains,
 E'en Paradise may bloom on BELGIA'S plains.

But, every good conceals a latent ill ;
 Beneath a *sweetmeat* lurks the *fatal pill*.
 To share trade's blessings, and its ills avoid
 Has long the statesman's baffled schemes employ'd.
 Ere long must Luxury's gaudy poison steal
 Its nervous strength from Freedom's heavenly zeal ;
 Soon specious vice and every gilded art
 To base venality corrupt the heart.

May weeping man the era never see,
 When as is CARTHAGE—shall COLUMBIA be!
 When glorious works of art shall mouldering lie,
 And threat'ning *Ruins* hold the distant eye;
 Statues of WASHINGTON shall sink in dust,
 His name unrescued from oppressive rust;
 ADAMS shall sleep, unhonor'd mid the dead,
 And HANCOCK's broken column scarce be read.

But sure for this the *magnet* ne'er reveal'd
 These realms of bliss by Nature so conceal'd!
 Kind heaven, forbid the honest patriots' breast
 By merely *fancied* woes should be deprest!

More true inspir'd, we antedate the time,
 When futile war shall cease thro' every clime;
 No sanction'd slavery AFRIC's sons degrade,
 But equal rights shall equal earth pervade;

When fearless Commerce by the *compass* led
 On every wave her *sacred flag* shall spread,
 With liberal course to either pole shall run,
 Or round the zodiac travel with the sun ;
 No narrow treaty fell the boundless sea,
 Which nature's charter to the world made free ;
 When all the compact, which this globe shall bind,
 Shall be the *mutual good* of all mankind ; [fail,
 When welcome COOKS earth's union'd round shall
 And view unbounded blifs thro' every land prevail.



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